

October 17, 2006

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**JOHN ANSON FORD AMPHITHEATRE -
PROPOSED SCHEDULE
“FORD AMPHITHEATRE – 2007 SEASON”
(ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve the proposed roster for the John Anson Ford Amphitheatre's 2007 season.
2. Authorize the Executive Director to make the necessary expenditures within the approved 2006-2007 budget to implement the program.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

This is the annual implementation of the 2007 summer performing arts series in the historic Ford Amphitheatre.

The roster proposed for the 2007 Summer Partnership Program Season includes thirty-three arts organizations producing fifty-three events. The proposed roster brings eight new arts organizations to the Ford season. It is anticipated that the Ford Theatre Foundation will provide resources for approximately twelve additional performances for young audiences, three additional chamber music concerts, a special distinguished artist event and a spoken word series. Overall, the proposed schedule is consistent with previous Ford Amphitheatre seasons, reflecting the artistic merit, cultural diversity and geographic range of Los Angeles County.

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The Arts Commission began programming the John Anson Ford Amphitheatre in 1993. To schedule the 2007 Ford summer season, the Arts Commission sent requests for proposals to more than 700 Los Angeles County arts organizations; 62 applications were received and reviewed by staff. Selections were based on artistic merit, producing experience, fiscal stability, suitability of proposed project to the venue and diversity in programming. On October 16, 2006, the Arts Commission reviewed and unanimously approved the attached proposed roster.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended action is consistent with the County Strategic Plan Goals of Service Excellence and Fiscal Responsibility as the proposed 2007 series will

- 1) provide the public with affordable access to quality arts programs and
- 2) further public private partnerships within the Los Angeles arts community.

FISCAL IMPACT/ FINANCING

Funds have been allocated for this purpose as part of the Arts Commission's Fiscal Year 2006-2007 budget. Additional revenue comes from rental of the theatre, concessions, and donations from the Ford Theatre Foundation.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Not applicable.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Not applicable.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Zucker
Executive Director

LZ:DP
Attachments (1)

c: Director, Parks and Recreation

FORD AMPHITHEATRE
PROPOSED 2007 SUMMER PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM SEASON

*indicates organizations new to the Partnership Program.

ADDO Group*: *African Highlife*

Evening of Ghanaian jazz fusion "Highlife" world music featuring a line up of four internationally recognized artists and their bands.

AMOS Presents: *Charles Phoenix's Americana the Beautiful*

"The King of Retro" (L.A. Times) explores America's Golden Era – the Space Age – in a comedic presentation of highlights from his collection of other people's old slides and home movies.

Asian A+ Artists Management*: *An Evening with Karen Han and Friends*

Widely recognized for two decades of feature film score recordings, internationally renowned *erhu* virtuoso Karen Han, accompanied by a 30-piece orchestra, highlights the versatility of this ancient two-stringed instrument in a program ranging from Chinese traditional songs to western classical music.

blue13 Dance Company: *Alice in Wonderland*

A classic tale transformed into a Bollywood dance and music spectacular.

Bluegrass Association of Southern California: *Bluegrass at the Ford*

Annual concert presenting some of the best in contemporary and traditional American Bluegrass Music.

Brazilian Nites Productions/Brazilian Women's Group: *Brazilian Summer Festival*

Annual festival featuring artists from Brazil and dancing on stage, as well as arts and crafts booths.

Celtic Arts Center: *Celtic Arts Center Concert Series*

4th annual program of Celtic music, song and dance – both traditional and contemporary.

FOCUSfish: *The FOCUSfish Flying Circus*

Hollywood's home for dance and circus artists returns to the Ford in another visual feast for all ages.

Film Independent [FIND]: *Los Angeles Film Festival*

Annual week of interactive, event-oriented screenings.

Grandeza Mexicana Folk Ballet Company: *Mexico Y Su Costa de Oro*

Music and dance from states along Mexico's "Golden" Pacific Coast, a highlight of which will be a special recreation of parts of *La Guelaguetza*, a major folk festival in the southern state of Oaxaca.

Hysterica Dance: *Hysterica X*

Tenth anniversary celebration featuring both new work and selections from the company's innovative repertory, performed by company members past and present.

The Instrumental Women Project: *Lady Jazz 2007: Kickin' Brass!*

8th annual concert featuring and paying tribute to great instrumentalists who happen to be female, with a focus on local pioneering horn players and featuring a powerhouse horn section.

International Academy of Middle Eastern Dance: *This is Belly Dance!*

Survey of contemporary belly dance featuring work by some of the best belly dancers in the world.

IRDOR, Inc: *Boleros Under the Stars Featuring Los Ponchos*

The popular, world-renowned Mexican trio returns to the Ford for two nights of romantic songs.

Jazz Bakery: *Johnny Mandel and His Big Band*

Music from the newly-issued Mandel songbook with singers Ernie Andrews and Cheryl Bentyne.

Jazz Tap Ensemble:

American Tap Masterpieces – The Hollywood Journey: Dance, Music, and Film

Premier of an NEA American Masterpieces touring project celebrating the masters of American rhythm tap through joyous recreations and new inventions, with special guest Arthur Duncan.

J.U.i.C.E.* *Street Dance Rhythm*

Celebration of the history and future of urban dance by artists from the hip-hop focused community center *Justice by Uniting in Creative Energy (J.U.i.C.E.)*.

Kultura Philippine Folk Art: *Dance of the Emerald Isles*

Festive dance theatre showcase of ethnic rites, tribal folklore and regional customs of the Philippines.

Latin American Cinemateca of L.A.: *Mexican Rock & Roll*

Screening of a rarely seen “rock and roll” Mexican film of the late 50s or early 60s, also with live musical entertainment, a panel discussion and Latino art exhibit.

L.A. Contemporary Dance Company*: *Trio*

Maria Gillespie's *Oni Dance*, Holly Johnston's *Ledges and Bones Dance Project*, and Kate Hutter's *L.A. Contemporary Dance Company* combine forces for an evening of high-energy movement.

Los Angeles Jewish Symphony: *A Feast for the Senses: East Meets West*

Partnering with the Yuval Ron Ensemble, the symphony explores the blending of classical western sounds with the exotic sounds and dances of the Middle East.

Outfest: *Outfest 2007 Under the Stars*

Five-night screening series that will be a highlighted component of the 25th Anniversary Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

Pacifico Dance Company: *Once Upon A Time in Mexico*

Pacifico returns featuring a new piece depicting the festivities, music and romance of a typical small town fiesta.

Pachamama Music Productions: *Fiesta Argentina 2007*

An evening of Tango, featuring traditional music by Pablo Motta's quintet, cutting edge electronica tango by Argentina's Grammy-nominated *Tanghetto*, and dance by the Otero Dance Company.

Pachamama Music Productions: *Inti-Illimani, 40th Anniversary*

Chile's legendary band – the most renown folk band from South America – in a special 40th Anniversary presentation.

Pachamama Music Productions: *The Music of Frank Zappa*

“The Grande Mothers re:invented” – featuring original and former members of Zappa's seminal band “The Mothers of Invention” – bring the music of this rock icon to life in a contemporary retrospective of his work.

REPRISE! Broadway's Best in Concert:

3rd Annual REPRISE! Best of Broadway at the Ford

Musical theatre's brightest performers in a staged concert presentation of some of Broadway's greatest music.

Society for the Activation of Social Space through Art and Sound:

sound. at the Ford Amphitheatre: Ikue Mori, Zeena Parkins and Fred Frith

An evening of experimental improvisors featuring stalwarts of the New York avant garde scene on harp, drum machines and electronics, in concert together with a legendary guitarist.

Star Entertainment & Education Group: *Fiesta Mexicana V – Sones, Bailes y Cantares*

Fifth annual benefit variety show featuring the rich diversity of folkloric music and dance from Mexico.

Star Entertainment & Education Group:

Concierto Tequila Azul y Batuta – Orquesta de Baja California

Return appearance of the Latin Grammy nominated orchestra in a popular program featuring some of the most beloved songs of the *epoca de oro* (pre-WWII era) of Mexico.

Star Entertainment & Education Group: *Homenaje Agustin Lara III Concert*

A concert tribute to the music of Agustin Lara, featuring tenors Carlos Torres and Mauro Calderon (Mexico City), guitarist Luis del Angel and vocalists Victoria Gomez and Sylvia Flores.

State Street Ballet*: *Bizet's Carmen*

An innovative version with choreography by New York's William Soleau set to the music of Bizet.

Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural*: *Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural's Benefit Night*

An evening of Son Jarocho music, comedy theater, poetry, Rock en Espanol, Chicano Hip Hop and Aztec Dance, hosted by award-winning poet and writer Luis Rodriguez.

Viver Brasil Dance Company: *Ancestral Memories*

Evening length work based upon Castro Alves' poem "Navio Negreiro" (Black Slavery) combines Brazilian orixa dances with Maculelê, Capoeira, Samba and carnival dance to tell a story of cultural transmission, transformation and adoption. Includes guest artists from Salvador, Bahia.

Proposed events from the following organizations are also still under consideration for inclusion in the season:

Art & Culture Workshop*: *Colombian Music Festival*

Six Colombian recording artists from the four regions of the country perform in a concert of both traditional and popular music.

Celtic Arts Center: *Irish Dance Concert*

An evening of Celtic dance featuring both local and internationally known Irish step dancers.

Hollywood Arts Council: *Pilgrimage 2007: A Tribute to Hollywood Musicals*

An evening of music from the movies, with special guests honored for their contributions to the genre.

Taiwan Center Foundation of Los Angeles*: *SEMISCON Concert*

Taiwan's popular and award winning a capella singing group performs jazz, pop, classical, folk and contemporary music as part of the 7th Annual Taiwanese American Heritage Week Celebration.

FORD THEATRE FOUNDATION PROGRAMMING

- ***Big!World!Fun! Family Series***

The popular multicultural performing arts series returns to the Ford on Saturday mornings. Admission for this award winning series is free for children and CalWorks families (with just a nominal \$5 admission charge for other adults). Artists currently under review.

- ***Chamber Music Under the Stars***

A longstanding Ford tradition continues. Artists currently under review.

- ***Zev Yaroslavy Distinguished Artist Event***

The 3rd in an annual series of events made possible by the Yaroslavy Endowment.

- ***Word Up! Series***

For the past four seasons the Ford has presented a summer play reading series on Saturday afternoons in the Ford's 87-seat indoor theatre, initially featuring the work of Latino playwrights and, this last year, of Asian Pacific Islanders as well. For 2007, the Ford's Community Bridges program will again produce a Saturday afternoon series, broadened to include other spoken word and performance art forms, with the aim of further increasing the visibility and development of new work by Latino and Asian Pacific Islander artists.

Note: All proposed events are subject to scheduling and artist availability. In addition to the Partnership Program events proposed above, regular lease events will also be scheduled for the summer subject to availability of the venue.